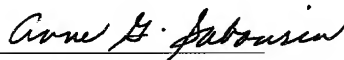


## REMARKS

Upon entry of the preliminary amendment, amended claims 1-21 and new claim 24 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to comport with US patent practice. Claims 22 and 23 are canceled without prejudice. Examination of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne G. Sabourin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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